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ILLINOIS DOCUMENTS

GUARDIANSHIP & ADVOCACY COMMISSION



"Because we care."

The Guardianship and Advocacy Commission was created as an executive state agency to safeguard the rights of disabled persons through three major divisions:

- The OFFICE OF STATE GUARDIAN
- The LEGAL ADVOCACY SERVICE
- The HUMAN RIGHTS AUTHORITY



OFFICE OF STATE GUARDIAN

A Substitute Decision Maker

"protecting disabled persons who cannot protect themselves . . ."

The Office of State Guardian (OSG) will assume guardianship of the disabled adult, if appointed, when alternatives to guardianship have been exhausted; the appointment of a guardian is necessary; and family or friends are incapable or unwilling to serve as guardian.

The purpose of adult guardianship is to provide substitute decision making for medical treatment, medication, residential placement, money management and direct care planning.

Currently there are over 4,000 disabled people who are wards of the Office of State Guardian. They have a wide range of disabilities. They may be chronically mentally ill, developmentally disabled, aged disabled or profoundly ill.

In addition, the OSG manages over one million dollars of its wards' assets, ensuring appropriate expenditures and investments of their funds.

The expertise of the Office of State Guardian allows it to monitor and advocate for appropriate medical and habilitative services unique to each disability and each client.

Many wards live in state operated facilities for the mentally ill or developmentally disabled; others live in nursing homes or other community settings throughout the State. Safeguarding their welfare is a challenging and painstaking process.

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LEGAL ADVOCACY SERVICE

The “Law Firm” For The Disabled

“securing for the disabled their constitutional and statutory legal rights . . .”

The Legal Advocacy Service (LAS) was created so that eligible persons, who are mentally ill, developmentally disabled, physically handicapped or the aged disabled, could obtain representation to enforce their rights under state, federal or local laws.

Legal Advocacy Service, through its attorneys and advocates, provides representation to disabled individuals in a variety of settings: nursing homes, mental health facilities, residential facilities and the community. The LAS staff represents eligible persons with legal problems that encompass mental health facilities, treatment, special education, social security disability, vocational rehabilitation, guardianship, confidentiality and other matters which affect the disabled.

Many LAS clients cannot afford to hire private counsel to represent them. Few lawyers, in the private sector in Illinois, practice mental health or disability law.

The Legal Advocacy Service provides legal assistance to thousands of disabled Illinois residents each year. This assistance takes the form of legal advice, counseling and legal representation in both court hearings and administrative proceedings.

HUMAN RIGHTS AUTHORITY

Volunteers in Action: Citizens Helping Citizens

"investigating alleged rights violations against the disabled . . ."

The Human Rights Authority (HRA) of the Commission is actually nine separate authorities. Each of these regional authorities has nine volunteer members appointed by the Commissioners.

They investigate complaints of alleged violations against disability laws. The Authority offers a free forum that permits negotiation with providers and avoids the confrontation of a court room. Issues that are not amenable to the legal process can also be addressed.

The HRA is not an enforcement agent. The Authority attempts to ensure the rights of the disabled through fact finding investigations of complaints which can be made by anyone. Many of the investigations focus on systemic problems; those affecting more than one recipient.

Each year the Authority's recommendations, which are adopted by service providers, affect thousands of recipients.



"Because we care."

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OFFICE LOCATIONS

PROGRAM OFFICE

527 South Wells, Suite 300
Chicago, Illinois 60607
(312) 793-5900

ADMINISTRATION OFFICE

305 Stratton Office Building
401 South Spring Street
Springfield, Illinois 62706
(217) 785-1540

FIELD OFFICES

(Service Locations)

ROCKFORD REGIONAL OFFICE

Singer MHC - Hawthorn Hall
4402 North Main (Box 62)
Rockford, Illinois 61105
(815) 987-7657

ELGIN REGIONAL OFFICE

595 South State, Room 245
Elgin, Illinois 60123
(312) 742-2724

PEORIA REGIONAL OFFICE

416 St. Mark Court, Suite 403
Peoria, Illinois 61603
(309) 671-3350

SPRINGFIELD REGIONAL OFFICE

Regional Office Building
4500 South Sixth Street Road
Springfield, Illinois 62706
(217) 786-6760

CHICAGO REGIONAL OFFICE

1735 West Taylor
Chicago, Illinois 60612
(312) 996-1650

CHAMPAIGN REGIONAL OFFICE

34 East Green Street
Champaign, Illinois 61820
(217) 333-4999

TINLEY PARK REGIONAL OFFICE

W. A. Howe Developmental Center
Sycamore Hall
7600 West 183rd Street
Tinley Park, Illinois 60477
(312) 429-2050

ALTON REGIONAL OFFICE

Alton Mental Health Center
4500 College Avenue
Alton, Illinois 62002
(618) 465-2045

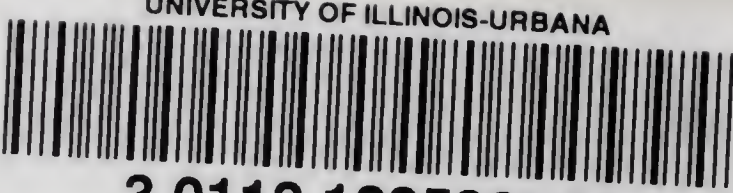
CARBONDALE REGIONAL OFFICE

611 East College
Carbondale, Illinois 62901
(618) 529-4167

GUARDIANSHIP & ADVOCACY COMMISSION



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